



# Promoting Early Childhood

## Wisconsin's Collaborative Leadership Forum Virtual Conference

April 14-15, 2021

<https://dpi.wi.gov/early-childhood/pec-conference>



Wisconsin Early Childhood  
**Collaborating Partners**

# Promoting Early Childhood (PEC) 2021

## *Relationships, Resilience, Intentionality and Celebration*

*This school year has presented changes and challenges that we could have never predicted or prepared for, but we are persevering! PEC 2021 will celebrate the lessons learned and adaptations created and implemented to support our youngest learners and their families. These changes will make the world of education a better and more equitable space.*

*The conference will focus on what brought us to the education field - inspiring children, having a front-row seat to watch all students grow, supporting families, and empowering our colleagues. Together, we will explore what early education might look like as we move forward.*

*The future is bright for our students! Let's keep our eyes on the light!*

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### **Conference Goals:**

To provide a statewide venue for professional networking and learning of ways to promote and implement play, developmentally appropriate practices and equitable learning opportunities in the early care and education field.

The 2021 [Promoting Early Childhood Conference](#) is an Early Childhood Collaborative Event in its 18<sup>th</sup> year sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in partnership with the Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners.



## Featured Speakers

### Conference Opening

Tabatha Rosproy, 2020 National Teacher of the Year is the first early childhood educator to be named National Teacher of the Year. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in unified early childhood education, including special education and typically developing students, from Southwestern College and is near completion of her Master of Science in education (English as a Secondary or Other Language) at Fort Hays State University. She teaches typically developing and special education preschoolers at Winfield Early Learning Center in Winfield, Kansas. Her classroom is housed at Cumbernauld Village, a retirement community and nursing home. (Photo credit: Ashlee Mayo/Amay Photo).

**Tabatha Rosproy**



### Keynote Speakers

**Dana Winters, Ph.D.**



Dana Winters, Ph. D., is the faculty and academic director of the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media at Saint Vincent College, and the co-creator of the Simple Interactions approach to support children, families, and their helpers. She delivers keynote presentations and workshops across states and countries to describe and affirm the essential, relational practices of professionals who serve children, youth, and their families. She has led numerous federal, state, and foundation grants in early childhood education, family engagement, and statewide training and technical assistance. She studies and advances the legacy of Fred Rogers by directing the Center's partnerships with educators and communities. Dr. Winters received her Ph.D. in administrative and policy studies from the University of Pittsburgh.

Passionate about bridging the gap between what we know and what we do. Amanda writes, speaks, and trains on the topic of intentional, whole child development and is the creator of the website [Not Just Cute](#). For over a decade, she has been sharing resources and presentations that promote conversations in educational communities to improve the quality of early education while respecting and protecting childhood. Amanda holds a BA in elementary and early childhood education and an MS in family and human development. Her past experience includes teaching in public, private, and migrant school settings, teaching preschoolers, grade-schoolers, college students, teachers, and parents. In her free time, she can usually be found exploring the Pacific Northwest with her husband and four boys or procuring copious amounts of chocolate.

**Amanda Morgan**



# Wisconsin Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (WDEC)



The Wisconsin Division for Early Childhood (WDEC), a subdivision of the national Division for Early Childhood (DEC), honors individuals and teams who are making a difference in the lives of young children and their families through our “*Above and Beyond Awards*”. We are pleased to honor those who have dedicated their lives to improving outcomes for young children with disabilities and their families; especially during this Covid-19 pandemic.

## Here are the 2021 WDEC Above and Beyond Award Winners:

- 1) *The Outstanding Contribution to Early Childhood* award goes to **Cindy Prendergast**
- 2) *The Early Childhood Special Education Teacher of the Year* award goes to **Carmen Zant**
- 3) *The Collaborative Team of the Year* award goes to **Stoughton Area School District Early Childhood Team**: Gemini English-Rewey, Janet Molldrem, Jane Dean, Lisa Buechner, Amie Rivest, Kim Kicera, Mindy Holverson, & Melissa Johnson



**It's WDEC Wednesday! April 14th, 4:30-5:30**

The Wisconsin Division for Early Childhood (WDEC), a state-subdivision of the national Division for Early Childhood (DEC), has a mission to support individuals who work with children with special needs, birth through age eight, and their families. We promote the work of DEC locally in Wisconsin, such as promoting policies and advancing evidence-based practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of young children who have or are at risk for developmental delays and disabilities.

Grab your favorite beverage and join the zoom meeting to learn more about WDEC, to meet our board members, learn more about membership and how we advocate for children with special needs and their families throughout Wisconsin. You don't have to be a current member to attend.

# Wednesday, April 14, 2021

## Session Descriptions

**Keynote Presentation: 9:30-11 am**

### ***Appreciating the Deep and Simple Moments in Early Childhood***



*It is sometimes difficult to imagine how a single, small, and ordinary moment fits within the complex challenges and rising demands for outcomes of early care and learning, yet such moments are the most essential building blocks of a healthy community. Finding meaningful ways to understand, appreciate, and promote such moments can be encouraging, enriching, and empowering at every level of the child-serving system. At the foundation of every child's healthy development is the power of human connection – and we will explore the power we have to build connections and contribute to the positive development of the children around us.*

***Dana Winters, Ph.D.***

Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/98648108275>

Meeting ID: 986 4810 8275

Passcode: PEC2021

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Child Development (DEV), Family & Community Relationships (COM)

### **Wednesday Breakout Sessions: 11:15-12:30**

**Keynote Follow-Up: The Power Of Simple Interactions: Understanding and Promoting Everyday Human Interactions**

*Dana Winters, Ph. D.*

Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/98648108275>

Meeting ID: 986 4810 8275

Passcode: PEC2021

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

This is an interactive, video-based, and practice-focused workshop to strengthen human interactions between adults and children. In this session, we will be using the “Simple Interactions” approach to closely examine adult-child interactions in everyday contexts. We will practice appreciative “noticing” and reflective “wondering” to understand the dynamics within even the simplest human interactions. We will discuss how these interactions weave together four basic building blocks of the human relationship – connection, reciprocity, inclusion, and opportunity to grow – to make positive developmental impacts.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Child Development (DEV), Special Needs, Disabilities, Inclusive Practices (INC), Family & Community Relationships (COM)*

*Level of Participation: Full participant engagement and discussion*

## **Nature to Nurture Resilience**

*Becca Lewis-Clifton, Early Childhood Coordinator/PST/Head Start Coach*

What can we learn from Scotland’s and Norway’s approach to early childhood? What happens when children spend time outdoors all year round? Let’s connect with how this supports the WHOLE Child and explore the 4 areas of Resilience (Model) that are learned outside for our wee ones!

*Zoom Connection:*

<https://widpi.zoom.us/j/92178961787?pwd=U2M5WDBFSldxNnp0ZHhZbkZkK1pzZz09>

*Meeting ID: 921 7896 1787*

*Passcode: natureplay*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Child Development (DEV),*

*Level of Participation: Learning Experiences, Strategies and Curriculum (LRN)*

## **High Quality Instruction in Early Childhood that Addresses the Needs of All Children**

*Michelle Ogorek, Statewide Early Childhood Coordinator*

*Jess Nichols, Equitable MLSS Coordinator*

*Zoom Connection:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87373400471?pw=QVNkT0h4eGxBZGtIMjc5UDNJcEdpZz09>

*Meeting ID: 873 7340 0471*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

What does high quality instruction look like in early childhood? Come join this interactive session where we will explore key components of high quality early childhood instruction that is responsive to students' needs across a continuum of supports. Topics explored will include: quality universal practices, principals of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), use of evidence based practices,



instructional strategies, specially designed instruction for students with disabilities, and play as an effective vehicle for instruction.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Planning, Reflection, and Evaluation (PRE), Special Needs, Disabilities, and inclusive Practice (INC)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

## **Evolving Together Towards Equity: An eCourse for Everyone**

*Christina Thuli, Title I Equity Education Consultant  
Joseph Kanke, Statewide Coaching Coordinator*

*Zoom Connection: <https://widpi.zoom.us/j/96158985722?pwd=cW1PK1pzVndlQU4xaitkbDlFNlRCdz09>  
Meeting ID: 961 5898 5722  
Passcode: PEC2021  
See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

In this, we will introduce the PEFA (Promoting Excellence for All) eCourse, a professional development resource developed by DPI for supporting educators in understanding race in education. We will begin the session by examining our own identities, as becoming self-aware is the first step toward understanding the profound impact of our values and assumptions on the students we serve. We will then engage in learning around topics such as stereotype threat, implicit bias and microaggressions, and discuss the impact of each on our work with students. We will also share how the eCourse could further be used as an individualized learning plan focused on understanding race in education.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Diversity (DIV), Learning Experiences, Strategies and Curriculum (LRN), Family and Community Relationships (COM)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

## **FLIP IT!**

*Karen Brunk, Early Childhood Program Support Teacher  
Cindy Prendergast, Early Childhood Program Support Teacher*

*Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/96006045451?pwd=VGdkGlwdXloSUucFFNcE1aUXlNZz09>  
Meeting ID: 960 0604 5451  
Passcode: PEC2021  
See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

FLIP IT is an effective, research-based, strength-based 4-step strategy designed to help young children learn about their feelings, gain self-control, and reduce challenging behavior. FLIP IT can be used for everyday challenges as well as for targeted interventions for a child displaying specific behavioral concerns.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Child Development (DEV), Guidance and Nurturing (GUI)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

### **Preschool Development Grant and Ready4K Text Curriculum**

*Andrea Cammilleri, PDG Strategic Initiatives Advisor, WI Department of Children and Families*

*Melissa Brockie, Director of Family Services, Next Door*

*Rebecca Honig, Director of Content, Ready4K*

*Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/91201378529?pwd=SEx1SHlhRTlwdDAwTXZCUHJvWTdiZz09>*

*Meeting ID: 912 0137 8529*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

DCF has teamed up with Ready4K to deliver an evidence-based family engagement curriculum delivered via text messages. Each week, your families can receive text messages with fun facts and easy tips on how to promote child development at home by building on existing family routines. In this session, you will have a chance to ask questions from a WI program leader who has experience using the service, a content developer for Ready4K, and PDG staff about how it fits within the context of statewide goals. You can also share your ideas for resources to send out to families across WI!

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Child Development (DEV), Family and Community Relationships (COM)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

### **Trauma Informed Practices: Fostering a Child's Resilience Through Proactive Approaches**

*Sara Jane Lee, Inclusion Support Teacher, 4K Coordinator, NVCI Coordinator and Nurtured Heart Approach Trainer*

*Zoom Connection:*

*<https://lacrossesd-org.zoom.us/j/91698928064?pwd=VURRS0INb0hqdk85YUtnZGL01JZz09>*

*Meeting ID: 916 9892 8064*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

This workshop will provide an overview of the impact of trauma on child development and explore what we as educators, parents and providers can do to foster resilience through proactive approaches. You will learn proactive strategies to help kids stay in the adaptive stage. You will learn about co-regulation and how to support children, learn how to provide opportunities for self-regulation and gain strategies to build positive relational support with staff, parents and children. Session outcomes include: A description of problem behaviors, antecedents-external/internal, underlying skill deficits, positive behavior supports, dimensions of communication, and how to develop positive support plans. You will gain a better understanding of trauma informed practices and learn about the three pillars of trauma-Safety, Regulation and Relationships. You will learn about proactive versus reactive behavior strategies such as Time-In, how to adapt your learning environment, learn additional transition tips and more!



*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Diversity; Learning Experiences, Strategies and Curriculum; Special Needs, Disabilities, and Inclusive Practice*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

## **A Partner in Supporting Families: Get to know the SE Regional Center for CYSHCN**

*Meg Steimle, CYSHCN Program Manager*

*Brad Holman, CYSHCN Project Manager*

*Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/94249455272?pwd=clpEanYRGNPaVdkWEpyaIJ6T3dvUT09>*

*Meeting ID: 942 4945 5272*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

Come learn about our five regional centers for children and youth with special health care needs, our network of partners and the many resources available to families and professionals alike. Many of our free services are available for families of children with and without special health care needs.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Special Needs, Disabilities, and Inclusive Practice*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

## **Wednesday Breakout Sessions: 1:45-3:00**

### **Setting the Stage for Relationships Through Play**

*Andrea Lorenz, 4K Teacher, School District of Waukesha*

*Nicole Zeroth, 4K Teacher, School District of Waukesha*

*Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/98648108275>*

*Meeting ID: 986 4810 8275*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

3 -5 year old educators-please join us to explore play through the lens of the child and the educator. During this highly interactive session, you will learn how our district has implemented all components of play workshop; mini-lessons, application, reflection, direct instruction, inquiry learning and stages of play. Educators will walk away with connections, relationships and resources that they can use tomorrow!

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Learning Experiences, Strategies and Curriculum (LRN), Planning, Reflection, and Evaluation (PRE)*

*Level of Participation: Full participant engagement and discussion*

## Teaching off Trail

*Peter Dargatz, Nature Kindergarten Teacher, Woodside Elementary (Hamilton School District)*

Zoom Connection:

<https://widpi.zoom.us/j/92178961787?pwd=U2M5WDBFSldxNnpOZHhZbkZkK1pzZz09>

Meeting ID: 921 7896 1787

Passcode: natureplay

See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information

After briefly discussing the origin and rationale for my outdoor classroom and nature kindergarten program, this presentation would take attendees on a trip through the kindergarten year. Using picture books, anecdotes, photos, and other materials, attendees would use elements of my 4P's philosophy to experience the nature kindergarten year both as a student and an educator. Completed chronologically, the presentation would move through the seasons and offer various activities, hands on experiences, and opportunities for discussion. Attendees would leave with resources, experiences, and hopefully inspiration to adapt their learning into their own setting.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Family and Community Relationships (COM)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

## Moving to Quality Inclusive Practices

*Danielle Bentley, Speech and Language Therapist, New Glarus School District*

*Michelle Ogorek, Statewide Early Childhood Coordinator, IDEA Discretionary Grant*

*Nicole Aldworth, Early Childhood Program Support Teacher, CESA 2*

Zoom Connection:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87373400471?pwd=QVNkTOh4eGxBZGtlMjc5UDNJcEdpZz09>

Meeting ID: 873 7340 0471

Passcode: PEC2021

See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information

What does it take to provide high quality preschool inclusive services? This session will explore essential elements that need to be in place to provide quality inclusive services. The inclusive practices team from the New Glarus School District will share their journey to providing quality services for their young learners.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Special Needs, Disabilities, and inclusive Practice (INC)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

## The Power of Praise

*Angela Kaiser, Director, The University Preschool, Academic Staff UW-River Falls*

Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/91201378529?pwd=SEx1SHlhRTlwdDAwTXZCUHJvWTdiZz09>  
Meeting ID: 912 0137 8529  
Passcode: PEC2021  
*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

The power of praise is mighty no matter who you are giving the praise to; co-workers, parents or children. We all need and want praise but did you know there is an appropriate way to praise? You will learn some tools on what to say when you praise, what words are meaningful and powerful, and when to praise. You will be given some strategies to help you remember to praise as well as how the praise you give can create positive behavior choices.

Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Guidance and Nurturing (GUI), Family and Community Relationships (COM)

*Level of Participation: Minimal participant engagement (listening only)*

## **GOAL: Expert Learners! Universal Design for Early Learning**

Cathy Daentl, Early Childhood Program Support Teacher/UDL Grant Coordinator, CESA 5  
Sue Erickson, Early Childhood Program Support Teacher/UDL Grant Coordinator, CESA 12

Zoom Connection:  
<https://lacrossesd-org.zoom.us/j/91698928064?pwd=VURRS0INbOhqdk85YUtnbkZGL01JZz09>  
Meeting ID: 916 9892 8064  
Passcode: PEC2021  
*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

Are we designing goals that are intentional and provide equitable access to the curriculum? In this session, participants will gain an understanding of how Universal Design for Learning and well-designed goals will help promote equitable access and participation so that your students become expert learners.

Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Learning Experiences, Strategies and Curriculum (LRN), Planning, Reflection, and Evaluation (PRE)

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

## **Building the Community Online Ages and Stages Questionnaire System (COAS) in Brown County**

Ann McCotter, Achieve Brown County  
Colleen Peebles, Manager of Pediatrics, Prevea Health/HSBS St Vincent Children's Hospital  
Christina Courtney, Birth to 3 Supervisor, Brown County Health & Human Services  
Missy Schmeling, Executive Director, Encompass

Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/94249455272?pwd=clpEanBYRGNPavdkWEpyaIJ6T3dvUT09>  
Meeting ID: 942 4945 5272  
Passcode: PEC2021

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

Partners from a cross section of early childhood focused organizations in Brown County are working together to create the COAS system. Together they have imagined a future for Brown County where every child receives the ASQ at least once per year of life, ASQ information is shared with those who need it most (PCP and school districts), parents are engaged and do not hesitate to respond to the ASQ questions, and all ASQ's are paperless. This vision has many steps, but the work has already seen positive momentum. Getting more kids ready for kindergarten by increasing developmental screenings and providing the supports necessary will lead to increased equity in kindergarten readiness for all kids in Brown County.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Diversity (DIV), Family and Community Relationships (COM)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*



# Thursday, April 15, 2021

## Session Descriptions

### Keynote Presentation:

#### *The Key Ingredient: Intentional Interactions*



**Amanda Morgan**

*The most important asset in any education program is its people. Research consistently tells us that the key factor separating high-quality early education from the rest is the quality of the interactions in the classroom. That's because all human development is designed to happen in the context of human relationships! In this session, we'll discuss why this is true and learn 5 key tools for powerful interactions we can put to work every day to build relationships and enhance learning. With a delivery style that weaves story-telling with contemporary research, this keynote validates the impact and importance of each teacher's daily interactions while also given them actionable steps to make those interactions even more powerful.*

Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Child Development (DEV), Guidance and Nurturing (GUI)

Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/98648108275>

Meeting ID: 986 4810 8275

Passcode: PEC2021

See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information

## Thursday Breakout Sessions: 11:15-12:30

### Keynote Follow-Up: Not Just Cute: Teaching with Intention

*Amanda Morgan, MS*

*Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/98648108275>*

*Meeting ID: 986 4810 8275*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

There is no shortage of good ideas in this Information Age, but what we may lack is purpose. As teachers, we've all filled in the empty boxes of a lesson plan with **what** we're teaching. But teaching is so much more than filling the schedule with the **what** -- it's also knowing the **why**. I'll talk about how to go from a Pinterest-fueled information overload (what I call intention deficit disorder) to a laser-focused pattern of intentional teaching and playful learning. We'll talk about why playing and learning are not mutually exclusive and how powerful play environments are fed by intention. Using the Recognize-Emphasize-Maximize method we'll discuss how to better know our learners and let that inform our planning and our interactions. Attendees will learn why intentional teaching is more effective, more responsive, and more enjoyable for learners and teachers alike!

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Child Development (DEV), Learning Experiences, Strategies and Curriculum (LRN)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

### Creating and Sustaining Relationships with Your Students and Families through an Equitable Lens

*Sandy Miller, Early Childhood Program Support Teacher, CESA 5*

*Nicole Aldworth, Early Childhood Program Support Teacher, CESA 2*

*Zoom Connection:*

*<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87373400471?pwd=QVNkT0h4eGxBZGtIMjc5UDNJcEdpZz09>*

*Meeting ID: 873 7340 0471*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

We believe that all educators would agree that strong relationships between teachers and students is a key factor in a student's success. During this interactive and thought-provoking session, we will explore how one's identity impacts relationships with students, families, and colleagues. We will explore a variety of tools that can be used to strengthen relationships and give you strategies to use tomorrow with those you support. Additionally, we will focus on how to build empathy and compassion toward families of students with and without disabilities.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Diversity (DIV), Planning, Reflection, and Evaluation (PRE)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

## **Good Intentions, Poor Decisions. The choices we make when selecting Children's Literature**

*Karen Russell, Early Childhood Program Support Teacher, CESA 2*

*Janet Budney, Early Childhood Program Support Teacher. Milwaukee Public Schools*

*Wendi Schreiter, Early Childhood Program Support Teacher, CESA 8*

*Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/96006045451?pwd=VGdkRGlwXloSUucFFNcE1aUXINZz09>*

*Meeting ID: 960 0604 5451*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

We all know the importance of seeing ourselves in the world around us. Many of us have worked on diversifying our own bookshelves in order to provide mirrors, doors and windows for our young learners and their families. This session will support and enhance your own skills in reviewing children's literature to ensure your choices are of high quality and that all children and families are represented. Participants in this session are invited to bring a favorite children's book with them to the session

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Diversity (DIV), Family and Community Relationships (COM), Special Needs, Disabilities, and inclusive Practice (INC)*

*Level of Participation: Full participant engagement and discussion*

## **Building Reflective and Supportive Communities that Promote Mental Health in Young Children**

*Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health (WI-AIMH)*

*Jenny Durand, Pyramid Model Regional Lead - South and Professional Coordinator*

*Tina Ruchdashel, Pyramid Model Regional Lead - Northeast*

*Becky Buck, Pyramid Model Regional Lead - West*

*Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/94249455272?pwd=clpEanBYRGNPvdkWEpyaJJ6T3dvUT09>*

*Meeting ID: 942 4945 5272*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

As we worked to support young children and their families in an ever-changing landscape, we've developed renewed understanding of the importance of supporting the mental health of very young children and the adults who care for them. Join staff of the Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health for this overview of the fundamentals of Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health and important work blossoming in the state that will help your program to address the mental health needs of children in your community. This session will highlight opportunities that you can access and provide an opportunity for you to weigh in on the supports you feel are needed in your community.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Child Development (DEV), Guidance and Nurturing (GUI), Family and Community Relationships (COM)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*



## **Understanding Biases and Working with People in Challenging Situations**

*Ron Mohl, Lead Educational Presenter, Lakeshore Learning*

*Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/99812162567?pwd=VDh6VnB3N09TU3VGZWxLNit6dTJOUT09>*

*Meeting ID: 998 1216 2567*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

We all have differing experiences with many people which shape our view on the world. In this webinar, we will take some time to look at our diverse experiences and how our biases may affect our relationships and interactions with our colleagues. During this session, we will engage in activities that require self-reflection and discussion on our own behaviors and biases. We will learn to put aside our biases to look at “difficult” people and situations through a new lens, so that we can be an effective leader.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Diversity (DIV), Professionalism (PRO)*

*Level of Participation: Full participant engagement and discussion*

## **What's in Your Social Emotional Toolbox? Promoting Strong Social Emotional Skills for Our Youngest Learners**

*Michelle Powell, 4K Teacher, School District of La Crosse*

*Jennifer Kalis, Early Childhood/4K Program Support Coordinator, Elementary PBIS Coach, School District of La Crosse*

*Zoom Connection:*

*<https://lacrossesd-org.zoom.us/j/91698928064?pwd=VURRS0INb0hqdk85YUtnZGZGL01JZz09>*

*Meeting ID: 916 9892 8064*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

What's in your SEL toolbox? It's time to shake off those SEL tool kits, and make sure the tools we are giving children are appropriate in this virtual, and new restrictions face to face school setting we are in. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) skills can be promoted and intentionally taught in a variety of evidence-based ways. The WI Pyramid Model and SEL resources will be shared. This will be a "grab and go" session that will fill your SEL toolbox with resource you can start to use now!

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Child Development (DEV), Learning Experiences, Strategies and Curriculum (LRN), Family and Community Relationships (COM)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

## **Creating the Climate for Learning**

*Terryl Wheelock, Project Coordinator, 4C for Children*

Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/91201378529?pwd=SEx1SHlhRTlwdDAwTXZCUHJvWTdiZz09>  
Meeting ID: 912 0137 8529  
Passcode: PEC2021  
*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

Weather. It affects us daily. It's predicted. We plan and prepare for it. Weather has an effect on our activities, moods, and mindset. Join us for this reflective and interactive look at the 'weather' in our classrooms. We'll look at the climate of our learning spaces: what it is and how it is created. We'll examine its impact on relationships and learning. Come prepared to share and reflect. Leave with intentional steps to create your climate for learning.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Diversity (DIV), Guidance and Nurturing (GUI), Professionalism (PRO)*

*Level of Participation: Full participant engagement and discussion*

### **Connect, Explore, and Engage with Nature-Based Inquiry**

*Emily Foster-Hill, FIELD Edventures*

Zoom Connection:  
<https://widpi.zoom.us/j/92178961787?pwd=U2M5WDBFSldxNnp0ZHhZbkZkK1pzZz09>  
Meeting ID: 921 7896 1787  
Passcode: natureplay  
*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

Are you curious about how to implement nature-based lessons within your early childhood curriculum? Let's strengthen our senses using intentional inquiry and the wonders of nature-based early childhood education! Connect, explore, and engage in supportive discussion surrounding an inquiry-based approach in early childhood and discover opportunities to implement the healthy practice of nature-based education throughout your classroom and larger school community.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Learning Experiences, Strategies and Curriculum (LRN)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

## **Thursday Breakout Sessions: 1:45-3:00**

### **Prioritizing for success: Aligning 4K and 5K standards in our Community**

*Susan Hellmers, Hudson Community 4K Coordinator; Houlton Elementary Principal, Hudson School District  
Julie Betchkal, Wisconsin Pyramid Model Coordinator WI-Alliance for Infant Mental Health (WI-AIMH)*

Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/98648108275>  
Meeting ID: 986 4810 8275

Passcode: PEC2021

See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information

This session seems like a story about aligning the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards with the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. It is really a showcase of an intentional, relational and collaborative process used by the Hudson School District to collectively identify 4K learning outcomes, define how they will be measured and outline the essential teaching practices that teachers are supported to use across 10 community collaborative sites. The presentation will highlight how the process- and the product- helped teachers feel supported in planning for instruction, celebrate children's learning and promote play based instruction as a vehicle to 5K readiness across the school and community partner sites. This session is really a story about the collective wisdom of the group to develop intentional instructional planning and delivery, and the power of building collaborative relationships to implement this successfully.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Child Development (DEV), Learning Experiences, Strategies and Curriculum (LRN), Planning, Reflection, and Evaluation (PRE)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

## **Passion Outdoors Panel**

*Lenore Wineberg, Ed. D., Early Childhood Professor Emeritus*

*Kate Dennis, Executive Director, Fort Little Green Gardens*

*Vicki Kingsbury, Teacher, Prairie Hill Waldorf School*

*Jenny Sadak, Principal Coordinator & Educator KinderWild*

*Amy Ester, Principal Coordinator & Educator, KinderWild*

*Lisa Misky, Starms Early Childhood*

*Zoom Connection:*

*<https://widpi.zoom.us/j/92178961787?pwd=U2M5WDBFSldxNnp0ZHhZbkZkK1pzZz09>*

*Meeting ID: 921 7896 1787*

*Passcode: natureplay*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

Join educators from public and private schools and nature-center programs in both urban and rural settings to learn about different models of nature-based education. Explore how innovative outdoor spaces and learning activities can meet the standards and relate to current research on the value of outdoor environment for young children.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Learning Experiences, Strategies and Curriculum (LRN), Family and Community Relationships (COM),*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

## **Welcome, Honor, and Connect...Intentionally developing and sustaining relationships with families**

*Stephanie Lulich, WI State Parent Educator Initiative (WSPEI) Family Engagement Coordinator, CESA 12*

*Heidi Lehman, WSPEI Family Engagement Coordinator, CESA 9*

*Zoom Connection:*

*<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87373400471?pwd=QVNkT0h4eGxBZGtIMjc5UDNJcEdpZz09>*

*Meeting ID: 873 7340 0471*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

A family engagement expert, Karen Map, believes a core component of family engagement is the “Responsibility for building and sustaining partnerships rests primarily with school staff, especially school leaders”. As someone who works with our youngest learners, let's dig into how we connect with compassion to families, understand a family's unique needs, and empower families to be their child's best advocate. Join us as we build our capacity around how we can grow with intention, as we develop and sustain relationships with our families.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Family and Community Relationships (COM), Special Needs, Disabilities, and inclusive Practice (INC)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

## **Working with Children who are Gender Fluid and Their Families**

*Robin Fox, Interim Dean & Professor UW Whitewater*

*Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/94249455272?pwd=clpEanBYRGnPaVdkWEpyalJ6T3dvUT09>*

*Meeting ID: 942 4945 5272*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

Gender identity begins in early childhood. During this workshop we will discuss gender identity with specific attention to young children who are gender fluid or transgender. We will discuss language to use, some statistics and share some stories of children. We will also share how we can change our language, curriculum, materials in the environment, songs we sing and books we share with children to develop an inclusive environment for children whose gender is fluid. Finally, we will offer participants a number of scenarios related to gender, children who are transgender, how to work with other families and teachers on these issues and changing policies. Resources will be shared with the participants (books, research, websites, support groups, etc.).

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Child Development (DEV), Diversity (DIV), Family and Community Relationships (COM)*

*Level of Participation: Full participant engagement and discussion*

## **What could you do with a library of over 100 play videos in WI 4K and 5K classrooms?**

*Beth Graue, Director, Center for Research on ECE (CRECE)*

*Jiyeon Lee, Ph.D. Candidate CRECE*

*Daisy Chang, Graduate Student, CRECE*

*Zoom Connection:*

*<https://widpi.zoom.us/j/96158985722?pwd=cW1PK1pzVndlQU4xaitkbDIFNIRCdz09>*

*Meeting ID: 961 5898 5722*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

In 2018, early childhood leaders from Kenosha, Madison, Milwaukee, Racine, and DPI joined forces with UW faculty to plan a partnership to promote equity in early childhood programs. In this talk, we present a product from that work: a library with over 100 videos of play in 4K and 5K classrooms. Curated on a protected website, the collection is designed for professional development. the videos are searchable by age level, type and content of play and descriptions of the instructional support strategies present. In addition you can read about teachers' beliefs and practices. Find out how to get access!

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Child Development (DEV), Learning Experiences, Strategies and Curriculum (LRN)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

## **Playing to Plan; Planning to Play**

*Missy Dieterich, Early Childhood Specialist, Independent Consultant*

*Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/91201378529?pwd=SEx1SHlhRTlwdDAwTXZCUHJvWTdiZz09>*

*Meeting ID: 912 0137 8529*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

Participants of this presentation will learn the difference between a curriculum and a lesson plan. They will also walk away with a better understanding of how to properly observe their class through play and plan their lessons to reach every child through play. They will be introduced to effective ways of observing and assessing each child in a way that is fun for them and the class—the kids won't even know they're being assessed! This interactive presentation will leave teachers with fresh ideas and a renewed sense of purposeful play.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Child Development (DEV), Learning Experiences, Strategies and Curriculum (LRN), Planning, Reflection, and Evaluation (PRE)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*

## **Everybody Started Out Small - Music in the EC Classroom**

*Stuart Stotts, Author, Musician, and Teaching Artist, Rusty Rose Productions*

*Zoom Connection: <https://zoom.us/j/96006045451?pwd=VGdkRGllwdXloSUucFFNcE1aUXINZz09>*

*Meeting ID: 960 0604 5451*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

Music is an essential element in an EC classroom. As teachers sing with children they build relationships, enhance creativity and exposure to the arts, integrate curriculum lessons, lay foundations for literacy, and celebrate with joy.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Child Development (DEV), Learning Experiences, Strategies and Curriculum (LRN)*

*Level of Participation: Full engagement and discussion*

## **Creating Intentional Play Experiences to Support Robust Learning Environments**

*Dr. Holly Gerlach, Educational Content Manager, LEGO Education  
Steven Weniger, Key Account Manager, LEGO Education*

*Zoom Connection:*

*<https://lacrossesd-org.zoom.us/j/91698928064?pwd=VURRSOINbOhqdk85YUtnbkZGL01JZz09>*

*Meeting ID: 916 9892 8064*

*Passcode: PEC2021*

*See Agenda at a Glance for Call-In Information*

Play is a child's context for learning. Play-based experiences help children learn and develop cognitive, language, physical, social, and emotional skills. Play in the preschool years enables children to explore and make sense of the world around them, as well as to use and develop their imagination and creativity. In this session, we will explore types of play experiences, how to plan intentional play experiences into learning environments to support the development of early learning standards, and how to foster healthy and inclusive peer interactions. Early childhood educators will walk away with ideas and research-based strategies to support their implementation of robust and comprehensive play experiences.

*Wisconsin Core Competency/ies: Diversity (DIV), Learning Experiences, Strategies and Curriculum (LRN), Planning, Reflection, and Evaluation (PRE)*

*Level of Participation: Some participant engagement and discussion*



## Promoting Early Childhood

### [Virtual Exhibitor/Resource Information](#)

*(After opening the above link, click on the exhibitor icons to reach their pages)*

BadgerLink- DPI

Celebrate Children Foundation

Center for Research on Early Childhood Education

DPI-Education for Homeless Children and Youth

Early Childhood Program Support and Leadership

FIELD Edventures

Five for Families

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Preschool Development Grant (PDG)

Project Learning Tree/Wisconsin Center for Educational Environment

PBS Wisconsin

Rooted-Farm to ECE Program

Supporting Families Together Association



The Registry

WIDA

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families- Child Care Information  
Center

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction-Early Learning

Wisconsin Division for Early Childhood (WDEC)

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association

WI Early Childhood Collaborating Partners (WECCP)

Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support

Wisconsin Head Start Association

Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI)

***THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING PEC 2021  
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!***

